

# Quarterly Hogs and Pigs

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## Hog Inventories

April 1, 2001

Producers had an estimated 11.9 million hogs on their farms as of April 1, 2001, down about 2.1% from the level of 12.1 million on the same day a year ago.

The number of hogs on Canadian farms declined. Inventories were down 2.1% during the first quarter of 2001.

The breeding herd, which consists of sows and boars, was slightly larger on April 1, 2001 than it was on the same date a year earlier.

Live hog exports for the first quarter of this year rose by 17.2% from the same quarter a year ago, as demand from U.S. finishing operations continued to climb. Canadian farrowing operations exported a record of 2.3 million weaners in 2000, up 12.3% from 1999 and 59.6% higher than in 1998. Weaners were sold to U.S. finishing operations to be fed to slaughter weight. In addition, Canadian hog producers exported 2.0 million hogs in 2000 to be slaughtered or for breeding, a 1.7% and 24.0% drop from 1999 and 1998 respectively.

Over the last decade, hog production in Ontario has been adjusting as smaller producers leave the sector, partially fueled by the slaughter price fallout in late 1998. Other producers have improved production practices becoming more efficient. Over the last 12 months, farrowing and small farrow-finishing operations in Ontario have shipped an increasing number of weaners to be fed on American finishing operations. As weaner exports rose, hogs weighing less than 20 kg have fallen by 21.8% from April 1, 2000. At the same time the sow inventory in Ontario has decreased 4.2% since last year.

Farrowings, or births, in the first quarter of 2001 in Canada, were up 3.3 % from the same quarter a year ago. Farrowing intentions for the second quarter of 2001 are up 3.7% over the second quarter a year ago.

**Quarterly Pigs on Farms: Canada**

Class	April 1, 2000	January 1, 2001	April 1, 2001
	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>	<i>1,000 Head</i>
Breeding Stock	1,326.1	1,353.9	1,327.1
Sows and Bred Gilts	1,276.5	1,306.2	1,280.6
Boars, 6 Months Plus	49.6	47.7	46.5
All Other Pigs	10,807.5	10,783.3	10,553.5
Under 20 kgs	3,724.2	3,609.4	3,496.5
20 - 60 kgs	3,655.0	3,632.3	3,462.0
Over 60 kgs	3,428.3	3,541.6	3,595.0
Total	12,133.6	12,137.2	11,880.6

*Source: Livestock and Animal Products Section, Statistics Canada.*

**Note:** Data for this release came from the April Hog Survey, a telephone survey of 2,500 farmers who were asked to report the number of hogs they had on their farm as of April 1, 2001.

Data will be available in the *Livestock Statistics Update* (23-603-UPE, \$45/\$149).